U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/577,243
Reply to Office Action dated January 2, 2008

IN THE ABSTRACT

Abstract on page 38:

A spectrophotometer, <u>for</u> ~~is provided whereby stable measurement can be performed~~ ~~with high processing rate and high accuracy, in~~ online non-destructive <u>optical</u> examination of fruit or vegetables or the like <u>avoids</u> ~~using near infra-red light or the like, wherein there is no~~ ~~possibility of~~ saturation of the data level, or [[of]] the data level being too small, [[and]] <u>due to</u> changes in rate of feeding <u>or variation in the</u> ~~can be dealt with by making use of for example the~~ ~~differences in density, in thickness of the skin, and in size of the fruit or vegetables, which are~~ ~~found even in the same type of~~ fruit or vegetables. Light that has passed through the fruit or <u>other article</u> ~~vegetables or the like~~ is divided into different spectral components and received at two locations, [[by]] a main light reception unit and a sample-use light reception unit. ~~First of~~ ~~all, digital comparison operation of a~~ <u>A</u> digital value obtained from the sample-use light reception unit <u>is compared</u> with a predetermined reference value, ~~is performed and, as a result of~~ <u>Based on</u> this comparison, the gain of a variable gain amplification circuit is set to an optimum value. ~~Then, the~~ <u>The</u> signal from the main light reception unit is passed through the variable gain amplification circuit, a zero-point correction circuit, and <u>an</u> A/D converter, to obtain digital data to be read for obtaining suitable wavelength characteristic data.

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